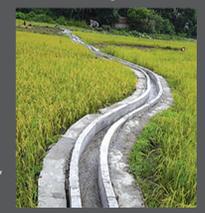
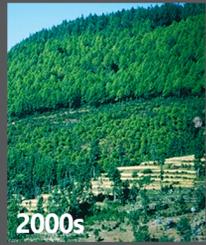


	1950-1990	1991-2000	2001-2006	2007-2015	2016-2018	Beyond 2019	
<b>NEPAL'S POLITICAL TIMELINE</b>	<p><b>Absolute Monarchy</b> Swiss cooperation with Nepal begins during the time of absolute monarchy when all political parties are banned and the country is governed through the Panchayat system. Towards the end of this era, the main political parties unite and successfully launch the popular 'People's Movement' which ends the King of Nepal's absolute rule and restores multi-party democracy.</p>	<p><b>Multiparty System and Armed Conflict</b> The era is dominated by armed conflict and its impact on the nation. The Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) launches 'The People's War' against the State. It leads to a violent armed conflict causing thousands of deaths and massive internal displacement.</p>	<p><b>Royal Takeover and Heightened Conflict</b> The armed conflict ends after a decade following the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006.</p>	<p><b>Peace Process and Federal Constitution</b> The first Constituent Assembly (CA) elections in 2008 result in the most inclusive legislative body in Nepal's history. The second CA promulgates a new Federal Constitution in 2015, which paves way for creating 753 local governments and 7 provinces. It ends Nepal's historically centralised unitary system of governance.</p>	<p><b>Federal State Building</b> The historic elections in 2017 lead to the creation of three non-hierarchical tiers of government – federal, provincial and local. Over 35,000 representatives are elected at the local level, out of which 41% are women and 20% are Dalits. Women also make up 33% of elected representatives in the federal and provincial assemblies, putting Nepal clearly above the global average of women's inclusion in parliament.</p>		
<b>PIONEERING TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET)</b>	<p><b>Centres of Excellence</b> Swiss development cooperation in Nepal begins with cheese making and Tibetan carpet production. The early Swiss pioneers use a vocational training approach based on an apprenticeship model. From the 1970s onwards, Swiss support to TVET shifts towards establishing training institutes as new 'Centers of Excellence', notably the Balaju Technical Training Centre and the Jiri Technical School.</p> 	<p><b>Access, Equity and Inclusion</b> When Switzerland realises that high-level vocational training is not accessible to all, it adopts an inclusive approach, which targets disadvantaged groups with specific quality short-term courses. Switzerland also supports the establishment of the National Skills Testing Board, which offers for the first time official recognition of skills levels.</p> 	<p><b>TVET Policy Framework</b> Switzerland continues to focus on access, equity and inclusion by introducing quality short-term courses to support disadvantaged groups. Through Swiss-funded projects, over 100,000 people receive skills training in different occupations. During this period, Switzerland also begins to provide TVET policy framework support.</p>	<p><b>Livelihoods for Disadvantaged Groups</b> Switzerland supports the Government of Nepal in establishing the national flagship program 'Employment Fund', which aims specifically at improving the lives of disadvantaged groups through vocational skills training. Switzerland also supports skill-testing services for conflict victims, and starts engaging with returnee migrant workers.</p>	<p><b>TVET Sector Federalisation</b> Switzerland will remain an innovative and technically competent partner to help Nepal's efforts to expand the reach and quality of its TVET sector. The focus will be on institution and system building at all levels of government, and on innovative, demand-driven and hands-on training programmes sought by the private sector.</p> 		
<b>ENHANCING RURAL ACCESS</b>	<p><b>Pioneers in Trail Bridges and Rural Roads</b> From the 1970s onwards, Switzerland contributes to Nepal's rural infrastructure development. Initial Swiss efforts help mapping the main trails along which to build 400 trail bridges across the country. The Swiss-led construction of the 110 kms long Jiri Highway becomes the first international standard road through the hills of Nepal.</p> 	<p><b>First Participatory Approaches</b> Switzerland supports local governments to build local roads and bridges with community involvement, and thereby promotes early democratic practices through participatory planning and implementation of construction works. Around 600 trail bridges are built with community participation during this period.</p> 	<p><b>Conflict Sensitive Programme Management</b> Switzerland remains engaged during the armed conflict. It promotes political dialogue through its programs and focuses on service delivery to disadvantaged people in rural areas. During this period, Swiss development cooperation helps improve access for over 3 million people through the</p>	<p><b>Modernising Rural Infrastructure</b> Switzerland introduces motorable bridges to improve connectivity. In collaboration with Government of Nepal and development partners, Swiss efforts result in the constructing of 1,000 kms of roads and 120 motorable bridges. The construction of modernised infrastructure reduces transport costs by nearly 50% and generates employment for more than 15 million people, out of which 67% are from disadvantaged groups.</p> 	<p><b>Institution and System Building</b> Switzerland supports federal state building through rural infrastructure by contributing to new legal and policy frameworks, and by helping to build new institutions and strengthen implementation capacities at subnational levels. In addition, Switzerland helps rehabilitate 91 earthquake-damaged trail bridges, more than 325 kms of roads and 100 kms of trails.</p> 	<p>Switzerland's technical support to Nepal's infrastructure development will reinforce federalism by strengthening subnational level institutions, promoting regional economic development, empowering new political leadership and generating political accountability through democratic means.</p>	
<b>IMPROVING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>	<p><b>Technical Knowledge Transfer</b> Switzerland pioneers technical knowledge transfer in the agriculture sector with community-based commercial seed farming, agricultural research and soil fertility management. These early initiatives contribute to improve the livelihoods of rural populations. Switzerland significantly supports Nepal to improve its potato production, leading to self-sufficiency in rural areas and a steady supply to urban markets.</p> 	<p><b>Start of Community Forestry</b> Swiss supported-community forestry interventions in the hills help to increase forest cover from 29% in the 1970s to nearly 45% today. Switzerland also contributes importantly to the development of Nepal's first Forestry Sector Master Plan, which actively promotes the inclusion of women and the poor as decision makers organised in community forest user groups.</p> 	<p><b>Empowering Local Communities</b> Switzerland deepens its focus on the worldwide-recognised community forestry model, which ensures that rural community forest user groups manage, conserve and benefit directly from their natural resources. Nepal's community forestry interventions play a crucial role in empowering rural forest users – in economic, social and political terms.</p> 	<p><b>Shift to Economic Transformation</b> Switzerland supports the local governments to provide agricultural services to farmers and to facilitate more private sector investment for increased employment creation and income generation. The Swiss approach in agriculture continues to focus on inclusive service delivery and empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups.</p> 	<p><b>Market Systems Development</b> Swiss support focuses on federal state building in the agricultural sector by helping to institutionalise the new functions of the local governments, in particular in agriculture extension services. Switzerland starts to develop, for the first time, a market systems development approach along agriculture value chains with an aim to promote private sector-led employment and income generation.</p> 	<p>Swiss development cooperation will focus on developing markets for commercial agriculture including in Himalayan niche products, promoting increased private sector investments, and enhancing the ability of disadvantaged groups to acquire the necessary skills for modernising and commercialising agriculture production.</p>	
<b>SUPPORT TO PEACE AND STATE BUILDING</b>	<p><b>Pioneering Swiss Cooperation</b> The early Swiss pioneers focus on technical know-how transfer to local communities as possibilities to engage with the state remain limited. From the 1970s onwards, Switzerland shifts its approach towards integrated development within hill communities. This results in the better protection of local identities and livelihoods.</p>	<p><b>Collaboration with the State</b> The establishment of multi-party democracy provides space for Switzerland to engage with the state to upscale its interventions. Switzerland transitions out of integrated development approach to focus on decentralisation in specific sectors. Partnerships with civil society become possible in order to promote human rights, inclusion, accountability and transparency.</p>	<p><b>Support to the Peace Process</b> Switzerland contributes to the resolution of the armed conflict through dedicated advice and programmes, and through its sectoral interventions by providing alternative livelihood options to disadvantaged and conflict affected population groups.</p> 	<p><b>Support to the Transition</b> In the period following the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Switzerland supports the constitution-making process and conflict mediation at community level, and it focuses on strengthening local institutions. Swiss funded programmes play an important role in improving relations between state and citizens in the absence of locally elected representatives.</p>	<p><b>Engagement in Federal State Building</b> Switzerland takes a leading role in coordinating development partner support to Nepal's federalisation process by aligning development activities in line with the new allocation of functions and powers as foreseen in the Constitution.</p>	<p>The promotion of peace, stability and human rights will remain an important pillar of Swiss engagement in Nepal. Switzerland will continue to support Nepal's ongoing federal state building process as a competent and innovative partner. It will remain engaged in building the systems, institutions and capacities at subnational levels.</p>	
<b>SAFETY OF NEPALI MIGRANT WORKERS</b>	<p><b>Steady Increase in Migrant Labour</b> Migration for foreign employment sees a significant increase during this period, especially during the armed conflict. Labour migration is not yet recognised as an important economic or social phenomena, nor is it a major contributor to the economic and social development of the country. During these volatile years, labour migration helps to keep the social fabric of Nepal intact.</p> 	<p><b>Safety of Labour Migrants and their Families</b> Since 2011, Switzerland starts the biggest and most comprehensive project in Nepal for the protection and benefits of millions of Nepali migrant workers.</p>	<p><b>Strengthening System for Safer Migration</b> Switzerland works on strengthening state institutions through various institutional reforms and measures. Its support is not only for the safety of Nepali migrant workers but also for the international migration organisations to better manage the global phenomenon of migration.</p> 	<p>Nearly 3 million Nepalis work abroad as labour migrants. Switzerland's continued support will ensure that migrant workers are better trained and prepared for the international labour market. There are opportunities to shape the new migration governance but also challenges to be addressed to ensure safer migration.</p>			
<b>SWISS APPROACHES IN DIFFERENT POLITICAL ERA</b>	Focus on technical knowledge transfer. From the 1970s onwards, Switzerland shifts towards an integrated approach to local development and starts to focus on system building in specific sectors.	Focus on institution and capacity building of government partners. With the start of 'The People's War', the use of diplomatic instruments starts to complement development cooperation.	Switzerland disengages with King's takeover government. It adopts a conflict-sensitive programme (CSPM) management approach with a	strong focus on inclusion. It also introduces a Workforce Diversity approach in its projects and programmes as part of CSPM.	Switzerland fully aligns its portfolio with the government's national priorities and programmes.	Focuses on federal state building including through its sectoral interventions. The approach emphasises system and institution building.	Swiss cooperation will promote inclusive growth through the use of innovation and Swiss know-how, as well as new financing models and increased cooperation with the private sector.